

On Monday, April 11 2016, the staff from a number of our smaller Catholic primary schools gathered in Donald for a day of professional learning with a Religious Education focus.

Chris Roberts, CEOB Primary Educational Consultant, opened the day with an exploration of the history of Catholic schools in Australia: how they came to be, who taught in them and the changing context of their work. Outlining the teachings of the Vatican documents on the Catholic School, participants were challenged to ponder what John's gospel proclaims with "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (Jn 10:10), in describing what makes a Catholic school *Catholic*.

Turning to Scripture, Jo-anne van der Voort, CEOB Primary Religious Education Officer and Kate Lawry, CEOB Resource Officer posed the concept of "Seed Stories" to participants, in understanding the origins of our Christian story. Reflecting on our own personal "Seed Story" that names, motivates and explains so much of what we do, the group turned to Scripture to identify the underlying "Seed Story" of both the Old and New Testaments.

Identifying the liberation offered by both the Exodus and the Resurrection, various passages of Scripture were studied and discussed, where these re-occurring themes were explored.

The day concluded with a reflection on *The Walk to Emmaus* (Lk 24: 13-35), with how Jesus was "made known to them in the breaking of the bread" (Lk 24:35) and the link to what we are "making known" in our school communities.

*Jo-anne van der Voort*



